



Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

Rick Scott
Governor

Carlos Lopez-Cantera
Lt. Governor

Noah Valenstein
Secretary

June 8, 2018

Tom McGill
U.S. EPA, Region 4
61 Forsyth Street, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
Mcgill.thomas@epa.gov

Dear Tom:

As you know, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (Department) recently held three rulemaking workshops around the state, as well as an online webinar, for our draft 404 program rule. These workshops were well attended, and attendees proffered various comments and questions about our draft rule. In addition, the Department has attended meetings hosted by stakeholders to discuss our proposed rule and the 404 assumption process. In response to comments and input the Department received from these workshops and meetings, and in the interest of continued transparency throughout the assumption process, we have decided to extend our rulemaking comment period from June 15 to June 29, 2018, to give Floridians additional time to review our draft rule and provide comments

Additionally, given the aforementioned comments and input, as well as the expressed public interest in the 404 assumption process, the Department requests EPA hold multiple public hearings in Florida, as provided in 40 C.F.R. § 233.15(e)(2), once Florida submits its complete assumption package to EPA. This will allow all interested parties the opportunity to provide additional meaningful input in the assumption process, including the opportunity to review and comment on the portions of the assumption package that are not addressed in Florida's rule.

We appreciate EPA's consideration of our request and look forward to continuing to work together as we move through the federal assumption process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John J. Truitt".

John J. Truitt
Deputy Secretary, Regulatory Programs